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State Dept. Review completedHISTORICAL OFFICE  
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

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76-711-7  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Mr. William Franklin  
Historical Office  
Department of State  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Franklin:

Under Executive Order 11652 of March 8, I am applying for a review and declassification of the Kennedy-Khrushchev correspondence for the week of the missile crisis, October 21-27, 1962.

In partial support of my request, I would like to point out that sections of ~~the~~ three of the still-classified messages were printed by Robert Kennedy in Thirteen Days, pp. 79-81. In my letters about this matter on April 3 and 24 and June 5 and 26, I asked whether the former Attorney-General had violated security and never received an adequate answer.

Should my request for declassification of the correspondence of that week, and especially the three items used by Robert Kennedy, be denied, I do think that the Department of State has some obligation to explain how Kennedy was allowed to reprint these items.

The three items that he quoted from are:

State Dept outgoing cable to American Embassy in Moscow #961 (Deptel 961), dated October 21, 1962, and classified CONFIDENTIAL. The document control number is 11762.

Incoming cable from the American Embassy in Moscow #1070 (Embtel 1070) dated October 24, and classified SECRET. The control number is 17952.

State Dept outgoing cable to American Embassy in Moscow #997 (Deptel 997), dated October 25, 1962, and classified CONFIDENTIAL. The document control number is 12901.

I do hope that it will be possible for your office promptly to initiate a review of the Khrushchev-Kennedy communications of that week, and especially the three items used by Robert Kennedy.

I am requesting these materials for a study of the crisis that I am preparing.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

*Barton J. Bernstein*  
Barton J. Bernstein  
Associate Professor